

## AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for calibrating a propagation delay in a network trunk comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a counter in each of first and second network switches in a network switch system;

(b) each counter calculating a time period  $T_i$  ~~from sending that begins when the first network switch transmits a trunk package and~~ marker in the first network switch until receiving to the second network switch and that ends when the first network switch receives a trunk package acknowledgement marker from the second network switch, and a time period  $T_t$  ~~from receiving that begins when the second network switch receives the trunk package and the marker in from the second first network switch until generating and that ends when the second network switch transmits an acknowledgement marker containing the trunk package back to the first network switch;~~

(c) commanding the second network switch to append the time period  $T_t$  to the acknowledgement marker prior to sending the ~~acknowledge~~ acknowledgement marker back to the first network switch;

(d) reading out the time ~~gap period~~  $T_t$  after the first network switch has received the acknowledgement marker; and

(e) calculating a time delay  $T_x$  after reading out the time period  $T_t$  by an equation  $T_x = (T_i - T_t)^2$  wherein the time ~~delay~~ delay  $T_x$  is caused by sending the trunk package on each ~~channel of a plurality of channels~~ between the first and the second network switches.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the second network switch is operable to decode the ~~received~~ trunk package received in step (b) by the second network switch for calibrating the propagation delay based on the time delay Tx in order to determine a time gap between the packages in the same channel, thereby obtaining a correct data stream from the trunk package.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of nodes n in the interconnected first and second network switches, wherein each node n in the interconnected first and second network switches is operable to generate a marker in the first network switch and an acknowledgement marker in the second network switch through a transmitter and a receiver therein respectively, whereby, the node in the first network switch is capable of performing a communication of transmitting and receiving the package with respect to the node in the second network switch.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising a register in each of the first and second network switches for recording the propagation delay caused by a line corresponding to the node in each of the first and second network switches.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the maximum propagation delay Tmax ~~occurred~~ occurring in the line by both the first and second network switches is set as base for calibrating the internal propagation delay, whereby ~~derive~~ an equation  $T_s(n) = T_{max} - T_x(n)$  is derived by utilizing the Tmax where  $T_x(n)$  is a propagation delay of the line corresponding to each node N and ~~obtain~~ a calibration value of the propagation delay  $T_s(n)$  is obtained.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein each of the first and second network switches decodes each received data package based on the calibration value of the propagation delay  $T_s(n)$  for calibrating the propagation delay caused by the line corresponding to the node in each of the first and second network switches, whereby ~~determine~~ a time gap Ts between the packages in the same channel is determined and ~~obtain~~ the correct data stream is obtained.